

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 14, 2007. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 12 and 14 are currently amended to further clarify the invention. Claims 19 and 20 are cancelled as the allowable subject matter from these claims has been incorporated into claim 14. The Section 112 rejections have been addressed by these amendments. With regard to the Examiner's remark concerning the term "least" in claims 6 and 13, (Applicants are assuming the Examiner is referring to claim 12 not 13) the terms are correct as stated. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks submitted in support thereof.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-2, were rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 5,844,828 to Fujimura et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 has been amended to include the feature of outputting a result from the second stage to further stages in series, wherein a maximum shift value at each successive stage decreases relative to a previous stage. Fujimura uses the same shift amount of each stage and cannot be modified to teach the amended feature of claim 1. Claim 2 is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 8-13, were rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 5,268,855 to Mason et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8 has been amended to include the feature of outputting the shifted operand to further stages, wherein a maximum shift value at each successive stage decreases relative to a previous stage, among other features. Mason fails to disclose this feature. Claims 9-13 are allowable for at least these reasons.

Claim 14 has been amended to include subject matter indicated as allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 3-6 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the combination of Mason and Fujimura. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the amendments contained herein. Claim 1, from which claims 3-6 depend, includes the feature of outputting a result from the second stage to further stages in series, wherein a maximum shift value at each successive stage decreases relative to a previous stage. As discussed above, Mason fails to teach this feature and Fujimura fails to cure the deficiencies of mason.

Claim 14 has been amended to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 15-19 are allowable for at least these reasons.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6921. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ADAPP221). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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